

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Shipments and Activity in the Northern Portion of the
Soviet Zone

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 18 October 1954

REFERENCES

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PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. It was rumored that units from the Magdeburg post were to participate in an exercise in the Dolle-Colbitz area. The exercise allegedly was to include a withdrawal across the Elbe River and was to terminate on 29 September.¹

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2. On 24 September, heavy traffic in both directions was observed on the northern road bridge in Magdeburg. Between 1800 and 2100, the number of individual vehicles which came from the direction of Wollmirstedt and proceeded eastward increased considerably. Traffic control signs were seen in the entire town area of Magdeburg. At 1600 on 25 September, additional traffic control signs arrived on trucks [redacted] and were set up in the town. Between 1700 and 1725, 3 armored personnel carriers including [redacted] 3 armored scout cars, 15 motorcycles and trucks [redacted] passed over the northern road bridge and proceeded eastward.² At 1730, they were followed by 8 armored personnel carriers, 1 armored scout car, 6 radio trucks, 6 tank trucks, 3 motorcycles, 1 ambulance, 1 jeep and 27 trucks. [redacted]

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3. At 2130 on 24 September, motor vehicle columns including AA guns and 5 tank trucks were seen on Berliner Chaussee in Magdeburg en route toward the east. [redacted]

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Beginning at 1300 on 25 September an undetermined number of trucks towing guns and mortars went in the same direction. The following numbers were seen:

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At 1700 on 26 September, 10 AA guns and 10 trucks

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were

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also seen going in the same direction.⁴

4. In the afternoon on 25 September, 25 T-34/85 tanks and trucks were entrained at the Magdeburg-Friedrichstadt railroad station.⁴

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5. On 26 September, an undetermined number of tanks were reportedly assembled in the Buch area 6 km south of Tangermünde. The Tangermünde-Buch road was blocked.⁴

6. On 28 and 29 September, advance details arrived at the Infanterie Kaserne (5441) and the Pionier Kaserne (5442) in Rathenow. On 28 September, 50 to 60 new trucks for the Pionier Kaserne and 15 trucks and 8 boxcarloads of billeting equipment for the Infanterie Kaserne were detrained at the Rathenow Nordbahnhof. On 29 September, 3 x 160-mm mortars, 2 x 120-mm mortars, 13 trucks and 9 boxcarloads of billeting equipment for the Pionier Kaserne were detrained at the Rathenow main railroad station. Prior to 3 October, only one building of the Ziethen Kaserne (5444) in Rathenow was occupied.⁵

Comment. Available information indicated that, between 19 and 23 September, units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div conducted exercises in the Letzling Heath which developed from south to north as far as the area north of the Stendal-Gardelegen road. It was assumed that armored elements of the division returned to the south section of Letzling Heath on 7 trains between 23 and 25 September.

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Information in the present report, which is partially based on rumors, makes it appear possible that new exercises of the division started in the east section of the Letzling Heath and eastward after 25 September.

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Comment.

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units of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps passed through Magdeburg and proceeded eastward between 24 and 26 September. According to paragraph 1 and previous reports from Magdeburg and Perleberg of 25 and 26 September, large wheeled elements of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps moved by road to the corps training area. It cannot be determined whether the units which passed through Magdeburg in an easterly direction transferred to the Burg area as enemy force, or moved to the assembly area of the corps at Wiesenburger-Belzig-Brueck.

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Comment.

units of the 7th Gds Tank Div moved by road to their winter quarters upon completion of exercises.

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Comment. It is possible that the tanks belonged to divisions of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps, either the 19th Gds Mecz Div or the 207th Mtz Rifle Div. Another source observed road blocks and motor vehicle assemblies in the Burg-Tangerhütte area on 27 September.

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These units which, during the exercises of the

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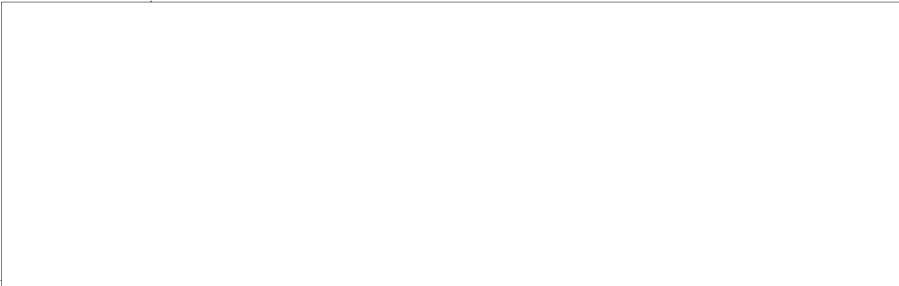
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reinforced IX Mtz Rifle Corps were probably employed as enemy force in the area of the Elbe River, may belong to the last mentioned division. This assumption is supported by the fact that the track-laying vehicles of the corps were shipped to the Wiesenburg assembly area and not to the area west of the Elbe River.



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